

REMARKS

In the last Action, restriction was between Group I, claims 1-9, drawn to methods; and Group II, claims 10 and 11, drawn to apparatus. The Examiner stated that the two groups are patentably distinct from each other, thereby making restriction proper. Applicant was required to elect one of the two inventions for further prosecution in this application.

In response to the restriction requirement, applicant has provisionally elected Group I, drawn to methods, and submits that claims 1-9 are readable on the elected invention. The non-elected claims have been retained in the application pending possible withdrawal of the restriction requirement or applicant's decision to pursue the subject matter thereof in a continuing application.

In light of the foregoing, early and favorable
action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

ADAMS & WILKS
Attorneys for Applicant

By: 

Bruce L. Adams
Reg. No. 25,386

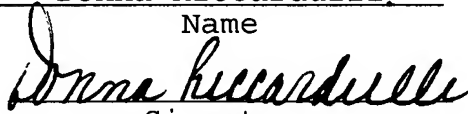
17 Battery Place
Suite 1231
New York, NY 10004
(212) 809-3700

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Donna Riccardulli

Name



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FEBRUARY 23, 2009

Date